

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

Attached please find a Replacement Sheet for Figure 9.

**REMARKS**

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated August 15, 2006 in which the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected claims 1, 3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Attached to this Amendment is a replacement sheet for Figure 9 in order to show the drive for driving the rack to be raised and lowered in a vertical direction. In particular, Figure 9 has been amended to add drive 125, which is supported in the specification in paragraph [0068]. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the drawings.

As indicated above, the specification has been amended in order to indicate drive 125. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the corrections.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 claim a manufacturing apparatus comprising a sheet supplier including a plurality of trays, a rack for vertically aligning the plurality of trays, a tray drawing device for drawing trays from the rack according to a predetermined order, rails arranged to guide a tray drawing operation of the tray drawing device, a drive for driving the rack to be raised and lowered in a vertical direction and a chucking device which vacuum-chucks a top-most ceramic green sheet in a tray near opposing edges of the ceramic green sheet and which temporarily places the chucking points closer to each other at a moment of lifting the ceramic green sheet. The ceramic green sheet sags and separates from a ceramic green sheet therebeneath. Also included are a laminator, a conveyor and a processor unit.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a chucking device which vacuum chucks a ceramic green sheet near opposing edges and temporarily

places chucking points closer to each other at the moment of lifting so that the green sheet sags and separates from a green sheet therebeneath, as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 6, the claimed invention provides a manufacturing apparatus having an effective layout while having a simple construction. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 6.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Cochran et al.* (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (Vol. 20, No. 11B, April 1978) in view of *Anzelone et al.* (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (Vol. 20, No. 11B, April 1978).

*Cochran et al.* appears to disclose a head 6 which changes to vacuum, which transfers the positioned green sheet to head 6 for final positioning on stacking carrier 7. Nothing in *Cochran et al.* shows, teaches or suggests vacuum chucking near opposing edges and temporarily placing the chucking points closer to each other at the moment of lifting so that the green sheet sags and separates from a green sheet therebeneath as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 6. Rather, *Cochran et al.* merely discloses a head 6 which changes to vacuum.

*Anzelone et al.* appears to disclose a time transfer head 7 which removes a green sheet from a tray 3 and delivers the product to a selected processing equipment. Nothing in *Anzelone et al.* shows, teaches or suggests vacuum chucking near opposing edges of the green sheet and temporarily placing the chucking points closer to each other at a moment of lifting so that the green sheet sags and separates from a green sheet therebeneath as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 6. Rather, *Anzelone et al.* merely discloses a time transfer head 7 which removes a green sheet from a tray.

Since neither *Cochran et al.* or *Anzelone et al.* show, teach or suggest a chucking device as claimed in claims 1, 5 and 6, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 3 and 7-9 depend from claims 1, 5 and 6 and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 7-9 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103 over *Cochran et al.* and *Anzelone et al.* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 3 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

New claims 10-12 have been added and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

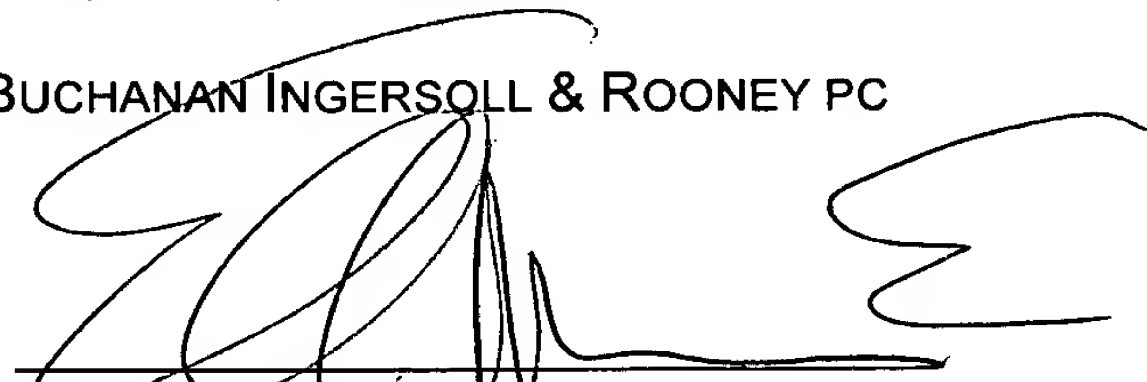
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: January 9, 2007

By:

  
Ellen Marcie Emas  
Registration No. 32131

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404  
703 836 6620